



#EYTCC2023

Poland wins quadruple gold at the European Youth Team Chess Championship 2023

FIDE World Cup 2023

The FIDE World Chess Cup and the FIDE Women's World Chess Cup 2023 started in Baku, Azerbaijan



European Senior Team Chess Championships 2023 concluded in Swidnica, Poland



In brief..

European Senior Team Chess Championship 2023 took place from 11-21 July in Swidnica, Poland with the participation of 28 teams from 13 European federations.

European Youth Team Chess Championship 2023 took place from 24-31 July in Iasi, Romania, gathering 170 children who represented 53 teams from 13 federations.

The **International Chess Day** was celebrated on the 20th of July. On this occasion, the ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili visited the Tbilisi Dining Theatre where he teaches and played Chess with special people with special taste.

European Youth Chess Championship 2023 will be held from 4-15 September in Mamaia, Romania. Due to requests by National Federations, the registration deadline is extended to August 10th, 2023. More than 800 players from 45 European federations already registered for the event.

The official regulations for the **European Women's Rapid&Blitz Chess Championship 2023** have been published. The event will be played from 11th-15th January 2024 in Monte Carlo due to the venue commitment.

European Chess Union has its seat in Switzerland,
Address: Rainweidstrasse 2, CH-6333, Hunenberg
See, Switzerland .

European Chess Union is an independent
association founded in 1985 in Graz, Austria;

European Chess Union has 54 National Federation
Members;

Every year ECU organizes more than 20 prestigious
events and championships;

www.europechess.org

ecu.secretary.general@gmail.com

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European Senior Team Chess Championship 2023

European Senior Team Chess Championship 2023 took place from 11-21 July in the city of Swidnica, Poland.

The event was marked with the intense last round which determined the Winners in both 50+ and 65+ categories.

Scoring all victories and perfect 16 match points, the teams of England 1 and Slovakia tied for first place in the 50+ section before the final round. The direct encounter between the leading duo was scheduled for round 9 and finished after the thrilling fight. England prevailed with a narrow 2.5-1.5 victory to clinch the gold medal. Slovakia came second with the final score of 16 match points and England 2 claimed bronze scoring 14 match points.

The best ranked Women's team in the event was England Women's team scoring 10 match points and claiming the title of the European Senior 50+ Women's Champions. The Lithuanian Women's team was second with 3 match points.

In the 65+ category, the team of Slovakia convincingly won the gold medal with a maximum score of 18 match points. England 1 came second with 16 match points and Polish Lower Silesia 1 finished third with 11 points.

Germany Women's team was the best-ranked female team in the competition with 9 match points.



The event was played in two age categories 50+ and 65+, with separate prizes for Women's teams. The 50+ championship was played as a 9-round round-robin tournament, and the 65+ tournament was played according to the swiss system.

A total of 28 teams from 13 European federations competed in the Championship, represented by 80 players.

Tournament director was Mr. Aleksandar Sokolski and the Chief Arbiter Mr. Tomasz Delega.

Final report and photo galleries can be found through the ECU Website.



Photos by Kamil Galuszka

#ESTCC2023

European Senior Team Chess Championship

The European Senior Team Chess Championship 2023 took place from 11-21 July in Swidnica, Poland, with the participation of 28 teams from 13 European federations.

Official website of the event:
<https://www.estcc2023.pl/>



Poland wins quadruple gold at the European Youth Team Chess Championship 2023

The 2023 European Youth Team Chess Championship took place from 24-31 July in Iasi, Romania and Poland emerged as the winner of all competitions in the event, winning the unprecedented quadruple gold!



Scoring 13 match points (6 victories and 1 draw), Poland convincingly clinched the Open U12 section. Turkey was second with 11 match points, while Israel and Germany tied for third scoring 9 match points. Having better tiebreaks (Olympiad Sonneborn Berger), Israel won bronze medal.

With the same match score of 13 points, the team of Poland emerged as the sole winner of the Girls U12 section, being a full point ahead of the runner-ups. Romania won silver medal with 12 match points. Germany claimed bronze, scoring 10 match points.

Poland's representatives in the Open U18 section won the competition with the score of 12 match points (5 victories and 2 draws). Israel A clinched silver with 11 match points. The team of Armenia came third scoring 10 match points.

It was a very tight race for the top in the Girls U18 category and three teams finished the event with the same score of 10 match points: Poland, Israel A and Monte Carlo Chess Club. Tiebreak criteria determined the Winners and silver and bronze medalists. With the best tiebreaks, Poland claimed gold, Israel won silver medal, and Monte Carlo Chess Club came third and won bronze medal.

The Closing ceremony of the event took place yesterday evening in the playing venue with the attendance of the ECU Treasurer Ion-Serban Dobronauteanu, the Chairman of the ECU Events Commission Paris Klerides, Tournament Director Elena Cristian and other distinguished guests.

Final rankings and final report can be found through the ECU Website.

#EYTCC2023

European Youth Team Chess Championship

The European Youth Team Chess Championship 2023 took place from 24-31 July in Iasi, Romania. The event was played in 2 age categories: U12 and U18, open and girls sections separately, gathering more than 170 children who represented 53 teams coming from 13 European federations.



International Chess Day 2023



International Chess Day is celebrated annually on 20 July, the day the International Chess Federation (FIDE) was found, in 1924.

The idea to celebrate this day as the international chess day was proposed by UNESCO, and it has been celebrated as such since 1966. On 12 December, 2019, the UN General Assembly unanimously approved a resolution recognising the day.

On the occasion of the International Chess Day, the ECU President Mr. Zurab Azmaiparashvili visited the Tbilisi Dining Theatre and used the opportunity to teach and play Chess with special people with special taste!

The complete video recap on the International Chess Day celebration can be found on the ECU YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=twKgf3gJiKI>





Photo by
FIDE/Stev
Bonhage

FIDE World Chess Cup & FIDE Women's World Chess Cup kicked off in Baku, Azerbaijan

The 2023 FIDE World Chess Cup and the FIDE Women's World Chess Cup 2023 kicked off in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The Open event is taking place from 29 July to 25 August, and the Women's tournament will be played from 29 July to 22 August in the same venue.



The Opening ceremony of the events took place in the Baku Convention Centre followed by the press conference which took place in the afternoon with the attendance of Minister of Youth and Sports of Azerbaijan Farid Gayibov, FIDE President Arkady Dvorkovich, the President of the Azerbaijani Chess Federation Mahir Mammedov, and two Azerbaijan's top players who participate in the World Cup: Teimour Radjabov and Gunay Mammadzada.

Most of the favourites managed to go through the round 1, however, some of the upsets were seen at the very start of the event. The second round of the FIDE Open and Women's World Chess Cups 2023 saw more surprises and 39 matches needed to be decided in tiebreaks.

GM Vahap Sanal (TUR, 2585) outplayed GM Nodirbek Abdusattorov (UZB, 2725) in the classical part of the match, GM Tin Jingyao (SGP, 2573) defeated GM Shakhriyar Mamedyarov (AZE, 2742) with the score 1.5-0.5.

GM Schitco Ivan (MDA, 2507) was victorious against GM Sam Shankland (USA, 2711), GM Daneshvar Bardiya (IRI, 2577) scored a victory in the tiebreaks against GM Alexander Grischuk (FIDE, 2736), GM Gadimbayli Abdulla (AZE, 2483) won his match against GM David Anton Guijarro (ESP, 2691).

In the Women's section IM Aulia Medina Warda (INA, 2355) defeated IM Khademalsharieh Sarasadat (ESP, 2488) with the score of 1.5-0.5, IM Bivol Alina (FIDE, 2371) outplayed IM Mammadzada Gunay (AZE, 2448), WGM Gomes Mary Ann (IND, 2326) won her match against GM Kateryna Lagno (FIDE, 2552) in the tiebreaks, IM Kulon Klaudia (POL, 2331) won against GM Nana Dzagnidze (GEO, 2511).

All results, pairings and detailed information about the events can be found through the Official website of the event: <https://worldcup2023.fide.com/>.

The first two rounds of the FIDE World Cup 2023 concluded

#FIDEWorldCup

FIDE World Cup 2023 is taking place from 29 July to 25 August in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Photo gallery of the events can be found on the FIDE Flickr account: <https://flickr.com/photos/fide/>

Photos by: FIDE/ Maria Emelianova, Stev Bonhage and Anna Shtourman.

The 1st KCF European Trainers Conference

The 1st KCF European Trainers Conference hosted and sponsored by the esteemed Kasparov Chess Foundation, in collaboration with the European Chess Union Trainers Commission, the Kasparov Chess Foundation Adriatic and the European Chess Academy took place on 8th of July in Zagreb, Croatia.

The Conference brought together around 150 trainers from more than 25 countries. The distinguished speakers, including Michael Khodarkovsky, Ivan Sokolov, Adrian Mikhalchishin, and Garry Kasparov, shared their expertise, enriching the conference with valuable insights and experiences.

Michael Khodarkovsky, a highly accomplished chess coach, writer, and organizer was the first speaker of the Conference. He delivered a compelling presentation that offered valuable insights into building a robust multi-level organization and fostering healthy growth. With a focus on the journey of their organization to the top of the chess world, Khodarkovsky shared his experiences, highlighting how they overcame key challenges and achieved success.

Continuing the conference's insightful discussions, Adrian Mikhalchishin took the stage. A trainer of champions and legends, Mikhalchishin built an impressive coaching repertoire, having worked with world champions such as the great Anatoly Karpov, Maia Chiburdanidze, and the Polgar sisters. He shared his knowledge on training methods.



The third speaker of the Conference was Ivan Sokolov, chairman of the ECU Trainers Commission. As the captain of Uzbekistan, Olympiad champions in 2022, and the current coach of the Romanian team, Sokolov shared his insights on talent identification.



The much-anticipated moment arrived as the audience eagerly welcomed to the stage the legendary World Champion, Garry Kasparov. As the mentor and coach of Magnus Carlsen in 2009, Kasparov's profound insights and extensive knowledge captivated the audience. Kasparov emphasized the importance of understanding the transformation from classical training methods to the present-day approach.



Former World Chess Champion Garry Kasparov was the keynote speaker of the 1st KCF European Trainers Conference

Detailed report by ChessBase:

<https://en.chessbase.com/post/insights-kcf-european-trainers-conference>:

Photos: Lennart Ootes / Anastasiya Karlovich / Kasparov Chess Foundation

European Women's Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship 2023 - Invitation

The European Women's Rapid&Blitz Chess Championship 2023 organised by the Federation Monegasque des Echecs under the auspices of the European Chess Union will be held from 11th-15th January 2024 (the dates moved from December 2023 to January 2024 due to venue commitment) in Monte Carlo, Monaco.



The first event on the schedule will be the European Women's Blitz Chess Championship 2023 to be played on the 12th of January. The event will be played in 13 rounds, swiss system, with the time control of 3 minutes game + 2 seconds per move starting from the first move.

The European Individual Rapid Chess Championship will be played from 13th-14th January, according to the Swiss system, in 11 rounds, with the time control 15 minutes game + 10 seconds per move starting from the first move.

The Championships will be held in the Hotel Novotel, Monaco. The total prize fund of the event is 22.000 EUR.

The Championship is open to all players representing Chess Federations which are ECU members regardless of their title and rating. There is no limit to the number of participants per federation. Registration starts after 1st August 2023. Applications must be sent to the Tournament Director, Jean Michel Rapaire by mail: cemc@libello.com. The registration deadline is 31 December 2023.

The Monaco Chess Federation offers special conditions (rooms, breakfast and transfer free, gift cards 300€ for lunch and dinner) for the 10 top invited women players.

Official regulations and invitation can be found on the ECU Website.

**EUROPEAN WOMEN'S
RAPID & BLITZ CHESS
CHAMPIONSHIP-2023**

11-15 JANUARY 2024

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European Chess Union
Since 1985

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THE ART NEWSPAPER

The European Youth Chess Championship 2023 will take place from 4th-15th September in Mamaia, Romania. The event will be played in 6 age categories: U8, U10, U12, U14, U16 and U18, open and girls sections separately, in 9 rounds, swiss system. The time rate will be 90 minutes with an increment of 30 seconds per move, starting from move one.



European Youth Chess Championship 2023 - Registration deadline extended

Due to requests by National federations the deadline for registration without additional fee has been extended till August 10th, 2023.

Already more than 800 players from 45 European federations registered for the event, including 100 titled players!

Each federation can register one player in each category – under 8, 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18 (boys and girls), with the maximum number of twelve invited players. Each federation can register unlimited number of extra players.

Qualifying & Prizes:

The first three players in each group will be awarded medals and cups; the first six players in each group will be awarded diplomas. The Winners of the each category will become the European Youth Chess Champions 2023 of the respective age category.

The venue of the championship is Ceremony Hall Dorna.

Detailed information and official regulations of the event can be found on the ECU Website.

European Chess Union is delighted to announce ESET, as a sponsor of European Youth Rapid and Blitz Chess Championship in Terme, Catez, Slovenia 27-30 September 2023.



ESET sponsors the European Youth Rapid & Blitz Chess Championship 2023

ESET will provide to ECU 144 pcs of ESET Internet Security Licenses (duration 1 year) and additionally free branded merch with ESET Slovenia branding (eg sunglasses, mouse pads), as prizes and gifts to the winners of the European Championship in Slovenia. The 144 pcs free software will be provided to the 6 winners of each age group in Rapid and Blitz Championship.

Brief information about ESET:

ESET is a global digital security company, protecting millions of customers and hundreds of thousands of companies in 200 countries worldwide. ESET employs a multitude of proprietary, layered technologies, working together as ESET LiveSense, that goes far beyond the capabilities of basic antivirus.

We also use advanced machine learning, which ESET pioneered to combat emerging threats. And we were among the earliest adopters of cloud technology, which powers our ESET LiveGrid® global reputation system to constantly update threat intelligence. Advances like these are the work of ESET's team of dedicated people, who have been researching malware and innovating technology for more than three decades.

Detailed information and the sponsorship announcement can be found on the ECU Website.



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**SPONSOR OF
EUROPEAN YOUTH
RAPID AND BLITZ
CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP**

in Terme Čatež, Slovenia 27-30 September 2023

Erasmus Plus CGS Congress - Madrid

Original article: "Análisis del Ajedrez Educativo en el Congreso Erasmus Plus CGS" written by Jesus Cabaleiro

Educational Chess was the leitmotiv of the Erasmus Plus CGS Congress, with the motto 'Chess, a game to be spread at school', which took place from Friday 9 to Sunday 11 June 2023 in Madrid.

The Conference addressed different aspects of educational chess by addressing the European project 'Chess: a game to spread at school' (CGS), which was approved in September 2020, by the Erasmus Plus program of the European Union.

The CGS project is aimed at primary school teachers and partly at infants, to provide them with a pedagogical training tool, capable of meeting the educational needs of their students, to obtain, thanks to the chess game introduced in the classroom, the development of skills key, functional to counteract the poor results of students, particularly in scientific subjects.

During the Conference, the approval of the third Erasmus Plus project for people with Parkinson's was made public, for which the National Parkinson's Foundation will collaborate so that the game can serve as an educational and therapeutic tool.



Opening of Madrid Chess Conference: Luis Blasco de la Cruz, Antonio Casado, Agustín García,

The inauguration on Friday the 9th was attended by the president of Club64 Villalba and an expert in educational chess, Luis Blasco de la Cruz, as well as the president of the oldest club in Madrid (he turned 75) ONCE Madrid, Antonio Casado, and the president of the Madrid Federation of Chess, Agustín García Horcajo.

The researcher from the Italian University of Turin, Davide della Rina participated online with the topic 'Analysis of project research results' where he addressed the progress of the positive results of the four training models included, from A to D.

VIERNES 9 DE JUNIO DE 2023

- 10:00 - 11:00 Registro de Participantes
- 11:00 - 13:30 Apertura de la Conferencia: Bienvenida e Introducción
- 13:30 - 12:00 **Charra en CGS**
D. Luis Blasco de la Cruz
- 12:00 - 12:30 **Análisis de resultados de la Investigación del Proyecto**
D. Davide della Rina
Investigador de la Universidad de Turin
- 12:30 - 13:00 **El Ajedrez en la Educación**
D. Iñaki Sainza Labrador
- 13:00 - 14:00 **Mesa Redonda sobre Ajedrez y su difusión en Medios**
D. Federico Miano Bortin
D. Jesus Cabaleiro Larran
Moderador: D. Luis Blasco de la Cruz
- 14:00 - 16:00 Comida - Descanso
- 16:00 - 16:30 **Diferencias entre el Ajedrez Educativo y el Ajedrez de Competición**
D. Luis Blasco de la Cruz
- 16:30 - 17:00 **Experiencia Educativa CGS en Colegio Alborada (Madrid)**
D. Luis Sánchez Tapia
- 17:00 - 17:30 **Experiencia Educativa CGS en Colegio Los Albenos (Madrid)**
Dña. Petya Simeonova Novoselova
- 17:30 - 18:00 **CGS y su implementación en el centro de Ed. Infantil y Primaria CEP Vicente Arango (Ctra de El Bar, Salgado)**
Dña. Susana de la Posa Pastor
- 18:00 Invitación al profesorado a participar en la formación de los diferentes modelos.
- Cierre de Jornada

SABADO 10 DE JUNIO DE 2023

- 10:00 - 11:00 Registro de Participantes
- 11:00 - 11:30 **Jaque Mate al fracaso Escolar**
Dña. Pilar San Miguel Amurrio
- 11:30 - 12:00 **Jaque Mate e la Exclusión: Ajedrez, psicomotricidad e inclusión. Una experiencia con alumnado de diversidad funcional y educativo**
Dña. Susana de la Posa Pastor
- 12:00 - 12:30 **El Ajedrez en los centros educativos. Impacto a través de la formación en el centro y del liderazgo de equipos directivos**
D. Vicente Alcaraz Millano,
Inspector de educación del Servicio de Inspección Educativa de DAE Madrid-Caj
- 12:30 - 12:50 **Explicación del MODELO A de formación del profesorado.**
- 12:50 - 13:10 **Explicación del MODELO B de formación del profesorado.**
- 13:10 - 13:30 **Explicación del MODELO C de formación del profesorado.**
- 13:30 - 13:50 **Explicación del MODELO D de formación del profesorado**
- 14:00 - 16:00 Comida - Descanso
- 16:00 - 17:30 **De la teoría a la acción. Clases prácticas de como trabajar los diferentes modelos.**
- 17:30 - 18:00 **El Ajedrez en la Unión Europea**
Dña. Mădălina Maria Lejean-Anuşca
Secretaria de la Comisión de Educación de ECU
- 18:00 **Clausura y Cierre de Conferencia.**
D. Luis Blasco de la Cruz



Left to right:
 - Agustín García (president of Madrid Federation)
 - Antonio Casado (ONCE spanish blind asso)
 - Luis Blasco de la Cruz (president of Club64 Villalba)
 - Lejean-Anuşca Mădălina-Maria (Secretary of ECU Education)
 - Petya Simeonova (psico motricity coord.)
 - Luis Sanchez Tapia (Madrid Chess Academy)

Erasmus Plus Models

From Model A to Model D:

- A. Chess and psychomotricity for Infant students (up to six years old)
- B. Chess, and psychomotricity, for Primary students
- C. Chess on the Board
- D. Chess and computer programming.



The researcher, educational expert, and professor at the Rey Juan Carlos University, Ismael Sanz Labrador in 'Chess in Education' cited that there are inspiring films that help students improve in their studies, such as the case of Uganda and 'Queen of Katwe' where those who saw it before the exams increased their results compared to others who did not view it.

The round table of chess journalists, under the title 'Chess and its dissemination in the media', with Federico Marín Bellón from the newspaper El Mundo, as well as our colleague, a chess expert, Jesús Cabaleiro, was very entertaining, telling, and explaining their different experiences.

On Friday afternoon, Luis Blasco addressed the topic 'Differences between educational chess and competition chess'. It was the section on experiences with two representatives of Madrid schools, Luis Sánchez Tapia, from the Alborada school, and Petya Simeonova Novoselska, from the Los Abetos school, who discussed their CGS

educational experience.

Professor Susana de la Poza Pastor from the CEIP 'Vicente Aleixandre' Early Childhood and Primary Education Center in Torre del Mar (Málaga) commented on the CGS project and its implementation in her educational center for the following day, Saturday 10, to develop the conference 'Check Mate to exclusion: Chess, Psychomotricity and Inclusion'. An experience with students of functional and educational diversity.

On Saturday the 10th, the teacher Pilar San Miguel Amurrio addressed 'Check Mate to school failure' citing the relationship between educational and chess objectives.

The Education Inspector of the Madrid DAT Educational Inspection Service, Vicente Alcañiz Miñano, addressed 'Chess in schools. Impulse through training at the center and leadership of sports teams'.

Then, after the explanations of the four teacher training models, from A to D, we went from 'From theory to action. Practical classes on how to work the different models'.

The last turn before closing was for the secretary of the Education Commission of the European Chess Union (ECU) and head of the 'Education through chess' project in Romania, Mădălina-Maria Lejean-Anuşca who spoke about 'Chess in the European Union'.

Practical activity

Chess Tournament for Kids on Sunday

On Sunday the 11th, a children's chess tournament was held at the CEIP Ciudad de Zaragoza. The conferences had the participation of monitors, teachers, educational staff, coaches, and the public interested in educational chess. The Congress was organized by the Madrid Chess Academy and the Ajedrez64 Villalba club, with the collaboration of ONCE, FIDE, ECU, the Madrid Chess Federation, and FSIE.



John Foley - Keep calm and play chess!



A lot of kids playing chess at ChessFest 2023!



Chess events on the screens of Trafalgar Square.

Chess Festival - ChessFest 2023

16 July - Trafalgar Square, London

Over 15,000 People Attended ChessFest in Trafalgar Square in London in 2023!

The UK's largest chess event took place on Sunday 16th July in London's Trafalgar Square. Now in its third year, the annual open-air chess festival saw over 15,000 people attend the free event organized by the charity, Chess in Schools and Communities, to promote and raise awareness for the game we all love.

This event was no possible without the implication of a huge team of wonderful people, team of Chess in Schools and Communities, the support Mayor of London, and of the sponsors: [XTX] Markets, Chesskid.com and KusumaTrust.

More infos: <https://www.chess-fest.com/>

CHESSFEST

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Proudly supported by
[XTX] MARKETS
Brought to you by
CSC
Chess in Schools and Communities

Sunday 16th July - 11am to 6pm - Trafalgar Square, London



A lot of kids having a lot of fun at the event:

- Giant Chess
- Living Chess Performance
- Casual Chess Games



- Challenge the Chess Master
- Chess Lessons



- Simultaneous Displays
- Chesskid.com Puzzle Rush

ECU101 - THE SMART METHOD TO TEACH CHESS

Learn how to use Chess as an Educational Tool to prepare children for life

IMPROVE
your chess teaching skills

09-10 September 2023



Participants who successfully pass their exams will be entitled to receive the ECU - School Chess Teacher Certificate from the European Chess Union and be acknowledged in the publicly available graduate database

Online, Zoom

Sat 9 Sep 2023 9:00 AM - Sun 10 Sep 2023 4:00 PM BST

ECU101 course: The SMART Method to Teach Chess

Course Objectives:
Using chess as an educational tool requires a combination of skills from educators, including knowledge of the subject matter, effective communication skills, and the ability to inspire and motivate students to maintain their interest in the game.

Chess educators have a great responsibility when it comes to classroom teaching. Their effectiveness is the key to successfully developing students' cognitive, emotional, and social skills through the game, the training course aims to support teachers who want to use chess as an educational tool.

Besides the educational chess approach, chess educators need to learn about basic pedagogical skills and classroom management techniques to enhance their effectiveness. Also supports improving their instructional skills, including how to structure lessons, and provide feedback.

COURSE CONTENT

- ECU Education Commission Chess in Schools (CiS) Survey
- Education Context
 - Levels of instruction
 - Managing Play
 - Games-based Learning
 - The ideal Chess Classroom
 - Lesson Structure
- First lesson delivery
- Tournament formats
- Mini-games
- Classroom rules
- Structured Thinking
 - Chess Thinking



- Method of questioning
- Method of repetition
- Scholastic Chess in Europe
 - Countries in practice
- Teaching Checkmate
- Chess language
- Planning
- Social formats

- The SMART Method
 - Self Learning
 - Motivation
 - Adjustment
 - Range of activities
 - Technology

Chess in Education
WWW.CHESSPLUS.NET

The course is suitable for teachers and tutors who want to make chess an exciting and educational experience for children.



Course information:

- **Course ID:** ECU101
- **Duration:** 2 days
- **Dates:** 09-10 September 2023
- **Time:** Please note, all times are in London Time
 - **Day1**
 - 09.00 - 12.00
 - 13.00 - 16.00
 - **Day2**
 - 09.00 - 12.00
 - 13.00 - 16.00
- **Language:** English
- **Fee:** €100 + €50 for the Certificate
- **Venue:** ZOOM
- **Course Instructor:** Jesper Hall, Chairman of the European Chess Union Education Commission / John Foley, Director of ChessPlus
- **Contact:** training@chessplus.net

The course helps you to build up your teaching skills in chess so as to improve the

the general educational attainment of children.

Inspiring Women's Chess Initiatives - "Frau Schach" ("Ms. Chess") from Austria

To launch a successful women's initiative, you need a passionate and committed leader with a clear vision. **Dagmar Jenner**, who overtook the role as a director of the solely women's chess club in 2016, definitely falls under this category.

*"The women's chess club "Frau Schach" ("Ms. Chess") was established in 2013 by the visionary founder Karoline Spalt. **This fall, we'll be celebrating our 10th anniversary!** It is a laid-back collective of women who gather every three weeks at a charming café in Vienna to play, chat, and have fun. Since 2022, we also have regional chapters in western Austria (Bregenz) and southern Austria (Graz)."*

The driving force in Vienna is Dagmar while WIM Helene Mira is in charge in Bregenz and Maria Martetschläger und Sara Felberbauer in Graz. *"In Vienna, we meet every three weeks at lovely Café Schopenhauer, alternating between Tuesday and Thursday to accommodate everybody's schedules. In the budding chapters in Graz and Bregenz, meetings take place once a month, also at a café or restaurant. While most of us can be considered intermediate players, we also warmly welcome beginners. In fact, our more experienced members gladly offer mentorship and guidance, taking newcomers under their wings."*

And how does a "typical" club's evening look like? *"We start at 6 p.m. and it's open end until the café closes at around 11 p.m. Players come and go, some*



Top: Dagmar Jenner, ©Gerhard Peyrer
WIM Helene Mira, who is in charge in Bregenz
An evening of "Frau Schach" in Graz
© Frau Schach

play actively, others watch games, and we always eat, drink, and have a great time. A few times a year, WIM Veronika Exler comes for a free training session. These sessions have become immensely popular, as Veronika's expertise caters to everyone's needs, from beginners to advanced players. "Frau Schach" embodies a supportive and inclusive environment, where women uplift each other and celebrate their shared passion for chess."

"Frau Schach" is **exclusively women's chess club only**, having about 100 members and up to 20 attend the regular meetings. The main benefits of such club sees Dagmar in the dynamics among participants. That there is a



An Evening of
"Frau Schach" in
Vienna
©Gerhard Peyrer

Dagmar on engaging more women in the chess

*"In our pursuit of a more inclusive chess community, we believe that all-female clubs play a crucial role in bridging the gender gap and fostering a supportive environment where women can confidently explore their passion for chess. **After all, this game is much too beautiful to leave it to men only.**"*

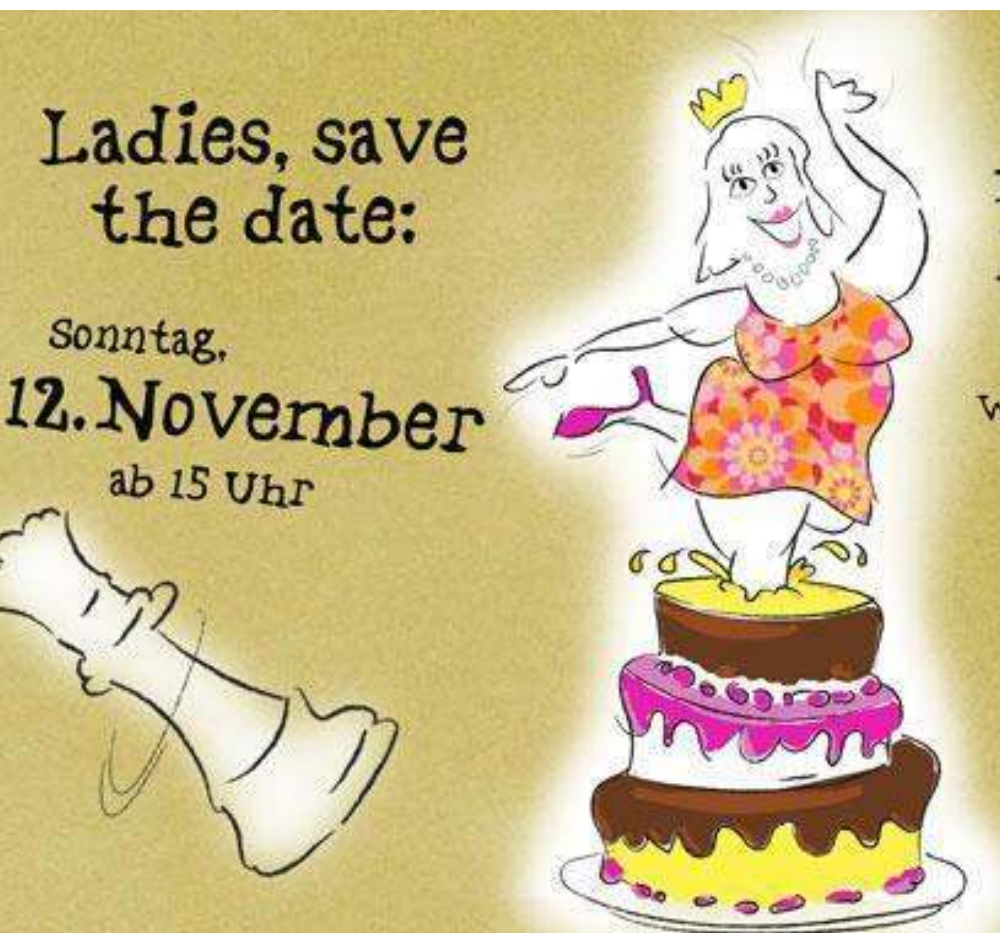


Photo: Invitation to upcoming 10th anniversary © Frau Schach

"I am a firm believer that all-female offers like "Frau Schach" are the way to go."

An evening with WIM Veronika Exler and in Graz ©Frau Schach



spirit of camaraderie, mindfulness and respect which cannot always be said for mixed-gender chess clubs, which are predominantly male. "We have a strict "women only" policy because previous women's chess clubs failed spectacularly, with men taking over in no time. It can be considered a feminist project in the sense that it provides a safe and empowering environment for women to have fun, interact, and learn from one another without any "mansplaining. Also, we charge no membership fee in an effort to encourage as many women as possible to embrace this wonderful game. So technically, we are not a chess club, but an informal gathering of women who play chess. We respect and value men as chess players and encourage them to explore the numerous other chess-playing options available."

Dagmar, whose is working as an Interpreter, Translator and Text-Writer is not only a driving force behind this club, but also financing majority of the costs, such as website hosting and other organizational aspects. "I am deeply committed to the project and dedicate my time to tasks like website updates, writing newsletters, and managing our social media presence. At our chess evenings, we have a donation box that

attendees can use to show their appreciation. The free training sessions with WIM Veronika Exler are sponsored by the Austrian Chess Federation. Our birthday party in November will mostly be paid for with the prize money we received from a chess video competition organized by CSA and the German Chess Federation along with a generous donation from one of our long-time members."

If you're interested in opening/launching a women's chess club like "Frau Schach" in your city, you're welcome to get in touch with Dagmar Jenner: dagmar@frau-schach.at

"Frau Schach" Website: <https://www.frau-schach.at/>

Thank you very much to Dagmar for the interview and for introducing us her successful and inspiring women's chess initiative in Austria.

If you know about any inspiring women's chess initiative or project, please let us know and we will gladly publish it. Send us an email on: womenchess@europechess.org

Future of women's chess clubs

"In an ideal world, there would be a well-balanced mix between women and men in chess, but we still have a very long way to go. But who knows, once the percentage of female players has increased substantially, initiatives like ours might eventually become obsolete!"

"SPOTLIGHT- Females Working Behind The Scene with Nadia Jussupow from the German Chess Federation"

In our section "**Spotlight - Females Working Behind the Scene**" we would like to introduce you passionate members of the European Chess Federations that are engaged in promoting and supporting Women's Chess.

Nadia Jussupow, Germany - Referent for Women's Chess;

My name is Nadia Jussupow and I am WFM, FIDE Trainer and FIDE Arbiter. I have been married to Grandmaster Artur Jussupow since 1991, we have two grown-up children, and I work as a trainer at our non-profit chess school. Since May of this year, I have been elected as the referent for women's chess at the German Chess Federation.

What is the % of female chess players in Germany and how many professional chess players do you have?

Women make up only 10% of the 88,000 members of the German chess federation. And only a few fall under the definition of a chess professional, although 23 women have been awarded the Woman Grandmaster's title.

What are the main projects and areas of responsibility of the Women's Commission?

Our commission is responsible for the German women's championships and women's team competitions. One of the main tasks is to get more women involved in the game of chess. We also need to have more women coaches, referees and organisers. We are working together with the other commissions to achieve these goals.

What events and initiatives have you planned for the rest of the year?

As you may know, due to some financial difficulties, the German



Photo: Nadia Jussupow

federation has had to cut its budget. Therefore our task for this year is rather modest, we want to hold our tournaments at the best possible level. Nevertheless, we plan to step up our efforts next year and try to put together some tournaments in which our girls will have a chance at international norms.

Do you have any ideas on how to get more females involved in chess?

I think we need to have more purely women's competitions. Right now we have the international open German Women's championship. Next year I would like to make it even more attractive by inviting some woman grandmasters and masters from other countries.

« I think we need to have more purely women's competitions. »

Text by: Alexander Sokolski

Refereeing school competitions



The program „Chess in School” is becoming increasingly popular in many countries all over the world and Europe. Poland is one of those countries where the program is developing rapidly – the number of kids playing chess at school is very high.

In this article, I will present different aspects of organizing and refereeing large chess competitions. Those types of competitions are held in Poland every year at the final national level (in some years more than 1000 kids have participated), provincial level (sometimes more than a few hundred participants), and in many regions, towns and schools, where there is a smaller number of players, but the tournament has similar characteristics.

Chess competitions are challenging for the arbiter and organizer for several reasons. There are usually no large financial prizes and the pressure that comes with them. The difficulty however is connected to the presence of many players (also parents, teachers) who are taking part in such a “serious” event for the first time and need to get used to the new situation.

Planning for such an event needs to start very early. The presence of an experienced arbiter is important already at the stage of preparing the regulation. The registration guidelines need to be very precise and simple to understand for everyone. We also want to avoid accepting individual registrations. We should prepare appropriate forms (e.g. an Excel sheet) for school registrations beforehand. When planning the announcement, we also need to take into account the division into groups (e.g. by age or by grade), remember about relevant auxiliary scoring and team classifications.

It is also worth noting that if the number of participants is large, then the typical 7 rounds in an one-day event might be not enough to determine the winner (e.g. for over 128 players in a group). This kind of situation should be anticipated and certain provisions like play-offs should be included in the regulations.

The playing venue is an important factor of every tournament, in particular for a large one. It has to be large enough (e.g. a sports hall), with a separated area for supporters (stands). The setup of the playing area needs to be consulted beforehand with the technical staff of the hall. Each group must have a clearly designated area so that the players will not get confused when looking for their chess boards. It is also crucial to have sufficient boards to hang pairings and announcements etc. For a smooth running of the event, it is also important to ensure clear marking – visible signs at the beginning of the rows and large table numbers. Thanks to this we can avoid players taking wrong seats and also shorten (or increase, if the organization is not good) the time for all participants to find their chess boards by a few minutes per round. This can save a great amount of time during the entire tournament!

It is absolutely necessary to hold a briefing the entire arbiters team. Due to a mass character of the competition, the number of arbiters is very high (1 arbiter for approx. 20-30 players). Obviously not all arbiters will be experienced – in particular with kids. Also, not all will know the latest regulations. As chief arbiter I need to explain the most important organizational aspects, remind the most important chess rules, e.g. explain what an incorrect move is and what is not and pay special attention to common refereeing errors.

The task of the chief arbiter is also to ensure quick and smooth pairings. Very often I perform all pairings myself. Sometimes help from 1-2 pairings arbiters might be necessary, especially when the number of groups is high. It is mandatory to be proficient in the software used. During such a mass event it might be necessary to perform actions such as: adding a new participant after the first round, removing a player, changing data/rating of a player, sorting the start list, reinstating a previously withdrawn player, manual change of pairings (e.g. due to a player's mistake), correcting a wrongly entered score from the previous round etc.

Before the first round the arbiter should remind all participants about the most important rules at the tournament. This message should not be long – in order to keep the attention of the players it should not be more than a few critical sentences. It is important that the players will not be afraid to call the arbiter and file a complaint (it is not necessary to name it a complaint) and don't leave their chess boards before reporting the result of the game. Unreported games results are usually the most common reason for delays at school competitions. The primary responsibility of match arbiters is to collect all results from their sector – besides fair and understandable verdicts at the chess board.

The work of the chief arbiter does not end with the completion of the last game. Depending on the regulations, play-offs might be required (e.g. several players have finished with maximum points). Finally, only after the chief arbiter approves the standings, they are being passed to the organizer to quickly prepare the diplomas and the distribution of prizes. One also needs to be ready to quickly calculate the team classification, if the regulations provide so. Previously prepared excel sheets might be helpful, however everything needs to be thoroughly checked and tested beforehand. Those operations should not take long – a few or several minutes at most – as the entire hall is eagerly waiting for the closing ceremony.



I hope that I managed to present the most important challenges facing an arbiter at a school competition. Those types of events are undoubtedly very challenging – due to a high number of participants and groups, varying sport level, presence of unexperienced players, short duration of the competition and the high pressure of running the event quickly and smoothly. I am sure that school competitions are very important for our discipline, even if they don't present a high sport level. The increasing popularity of the chess game is largely attributed to school communities. Therefore, let's not be afraid to take initiatives at the school, local, regional or higher level. Let's do it professionally so the competition will be a joint celebration of chess!

Text by:
Alexander Sokolski,
member of the ECU
Arbiters Council



Howard Staunton said about chess

>The game of chess is the most fascinating and intellectual pastime which the wisdom of antiquity has bequeathed to us.

>The Queen is usually reckoned equal, in average situations, to two Rooks and a Pawn, but towards the end of a game she is hardly so valuable as two Rooks.

>When a Piece or Pawn is in a situation to be taken by the enemy, it is said to be en prise. To put a piece en prise, is to play it so that it may be captured.

>To play with correctness and skill the ends of games, is an important but a very rare accomplishment, exact among the magnates of the game.

In July 2023 edition of the ECU Magazine, we present four positions where White mates in two moves!

Solutions from June Magazine

#Puzzle 1:
1.Nxc7+! Bxc7 2.Bb5#

#Puzzle 2:
1.Nf6+!! gxf6 2.Bf7#

#Puzzle 3:
1.Rh8+!! Kxh8 2.Qh7#

#Puzzle 4:
1.Rxh7+!! Kxh7 2.Qh5#



"Chess makes you smarter!"